

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 17 to 19, 27, 28, 31, 35 to 38, and add new Claims 39 to 41, as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery which comprises a pair of a sealing member (a) and a sealing member (b) and only a single battery main body which comprises a cathode, an anode, and an ion conductor, wherein said single battery main body is enclosed between said pair of said sealing member (a) and said sealing member (b), at least said sealing member (a) having a concave portion such that said concave portion is extended to either side of said sealing member (a) from a central position of said sealing member (a) so as to have a peripheral portion which surrounds said concave portion, and said two sealing members member (a) and said sealing member (b) being arranged to oppose to each other such that the face of said concave portion of said sealing member (a) is faced to said sealing member (b) through said single battery main body, characterized in that said sealing member (a) has a peripheral collar portion (a-i) at said peripheral portion of said concaved portion and said sealing member (b) has a peripheral collar portion (b-i) at a region thereof corresponding to said peripheral portion, and of said sealing member (a) wherein said peripheral collar portion (a-i) and said peripheral collar portion (b-i) are mutually welded, and either said sealing member (a) or said sealing member (b) is provided with a power output terminal having electrical continuity with said cathode of said single battery main body, a power output terminal

having electrical continuity with said anode, ~~of said single battery main body~~ and an insulating portion for insulating said power output terminals.

2. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery which comprises a battery main body comprising at least a cathode, an anode, and an ion conductor, said battery main body being enclosed between a pair of a sealing member (a) and a sealing member (b), each of said sealing member (a) and said sealing member (b) having a concave portion such that said concave portion of said sealing member (a) is extended to either side of said sealing member (a) from a central position of said sealing member (a) so as to have a peripheral portion (aa) which surrounds said concave portion of said sealing member (a), and said concave portion of said sealing member (b) is extended to either side of said sealing member (b) from a central portion of said sealing member (b) so as to have a peripheral portion (bb) which surrounds said concave portion of said sealing member (b), and said two sealing members member (a) and said sealing member (b) being arranged to oppose to each other such that the face of said concave portion of said sealing member (a) and the face of said concave portion of said sealing member (b) are opposed to each other through said battery main body, characterized in that said sealing member (a) has a peripheral collar portion (a-i) at said peripheral portion (aa) ~~of said concaved portion~~ and said sealing member (b) has a peripheral collar portion (b-i) at said peripheral portion (bb) ~~of said concaved portion~~ so as to correspond to said peripheral collar portion (a-i), wherein said peripheral collar portion (a-i) and said peripheral collar portion (b-i) are mutually welded, and either said sealing member (a) or said sealing member (b) is provided

with a power output terminal having electrical continuity with said cathode ~~of said battery main body~~, a power output terminal having electrical continuity with said anode, ~~of said battery main body~~ and an insulating portion for insulating said power output terminals;

~~wherein said sealing member (b) also has a concave portion such that said concave portion is extended to either side of said sealing member (b) from a central position of said sealing member (b) so as to have a peripheral portion which surrounds said concave portion and said peripheral portion comprises said collar portion (b-i).~~

3. (Previously Presented) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein each of said sealing member (a) and said sealing member (b) principally comprises one or more metallic materials selected from the group consisting of a stainless steel material, a nickel material, a nickel-plated iron material, an aluminum material, and a copper material.

4. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein each of said peripheral collar portion (a-i) and said peripheral collar portion (b-i) has a width in a range of from 0.5 mm to 3.0 mm.

5. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein said concave portion ~~of said sealing member (a)~~ is shaped to have a cross section in a substantially symmetrical trapezoidal form.

6. (Original) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 5, wherein said symmetrical trapezoidal form as said concave portion has an inclination in a range of from 5° to 45°.

7. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 2, wherein ~~said concave portion of each of said~~ concave portion of said sealing member (a) and said concave portion of said sealing member (b) is shaped to have a cross section in a substantially symmetrical trapezoidal form.

8. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 7, wherein said symmetrical trapezoidal form ~~as said concave portion~~ has an inclination in a range of from 5° to 45°.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein said power output terminal having electrical continuity with said cathode and said power output terminal having electrical continuity with said anode are situated at a position in ~~said concave portion of said sealing member (a)~~ which is 15 mm or less distant from a circumferential face of said concave portion.

11. (Original) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein at least said sealing member (a) has a region constituted by a plastic material.
12. (Original) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein said sealing member (a) or said sealing member (b) has an internal pressure release vent.
13. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 12, wherein said internal pressure release vent comprises a rubber plug, a spring, or a plug comprising a thin film, a rubber plug or a spring.
14. (Original) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein an internal pressure release vent is provided in said insulating portion.
15. (Original) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein said insulating portion comprises a plastic material.
16. (Original) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein said insulating portion comprises a plastic material, an internal pressure release vent is provided in said insulating portion, and said internal pressure release vent comprises a plug comprising a thin film formed of said plastic material constituting said insulating portion.

17. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein ~~said power output terminals includes a cathode power output terminal electrically connected to said cathode of said single battery main body and an anode power output terminal electrically connected to said anode of said single battery main body~~, at least said cathode has a cathode lead portion, and said ~~cathode~~ power output terminal having electrical continuity with said cathode is joined with said cathode lead portion through a cathode power output lead comprising a clad material.

18. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 17, wherein said clad material comprises (i) a material selected from the group consisting of a nickel material, a titanium material, and a copper material, or a material containing an element constituting said ~~cathode~~ power output terminal having electrical continuity with said cathode as a main constituent, and (ii) a material containing an element constituting said cathode lead portion as a main constituent.

19. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein said anode of ~~said single battery main body~~ has an anode active material containing a material capable of being alloyed with lithium.

20 to 25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 2, wherein each of said sealing member (a) and said sealing member (b) principally comprises one or more metallic materials selected from the group consisting of a stainless steel material, a nickel material, a nickel-plated iron material, an aluminum material, and a copper material.

27. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 2, wherein each of said peripheral collar portion (a-i) and said peripheral collar portion (b-i) has a width in a range of from 0.5 mm to 3.0 mm.

28. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 2, wherein said power output terminal having electrical continuity with said cathode and said power output terminal having electrical continuity with said anode are situated at a position in said concave portion ~~of said sealing member (a)~~ which is 15 mm or less distant from a circumferential face of said concave portion.

29. (Previously Presented) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 2, wherein at least said sealing member (a) has a region constituted by a plastic material.

30. (Previously Presented) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 2, wherein said sealing member (a) or said sealing member (b) has an internal pressure release vent.

31. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 30, wherein said internal pressure release vent comprises a rubber plug, a spring, or a plug comprising a thin film, ~~a rubber plug or a spring~~.

32. (Previously Presented) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 2, wherein an internal pressure release vent is provided in said insulating portion.

33. (Previously Presented) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 2, wherein said insulating portion comprises a plastic material.

34. (Previously Presented) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 2, wherein said insulating portion comprises a plastic material, an internal pressure release vent is provided in said insulating portion, and said internal pressure release vent comprises a plug comprising a thin film formed of said plastic material constituting said insulating portion.

35. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 2, wherein ~~said power output terminals include a cathode power output terminal~~

~~electrically connected to said cathode of said battery main body and an anode power output terminal electrically connected to said anode of said battery main body;~~ at least said cathode has a cathode lead portion, and said ~~cathode~~ power output terminal having electrical continuity with said cathode is joined with said cathode lead portion through a cathode power output lead comprising a clad material.

36. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 35, wherein said clad material comprises (i) a material selected from the group consisting of a nickel material, a titanium material, and a copper material, or a material containing an element constituting said cathode power output terminal as a main constituent, and (ii) a material containing an element constituting said cathode lead portion as a main constituent.

37. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 2, wherein said anode ~~of said battery main body~~ has an anode active material containing a material capable of being alloyed with lithium.

38. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery which comprises a pair of a sealing member (a) and a sealing member (b) and only a single battery main body which comprises a cathode, an anode and an ion conductor, wherein said single battery main body is enclosed between said pair of said sealing member (a) and said sealing member (b), at least said sealing member (a) having a concave portion configured

such that said concave portion is extended to either side of said sealing member (a) from a central position of said sealing member (a), and said ~~two~~ sealing members member (a) and said sealing member (b) being arranged to oppose to each other such that the face of said concave portion ~~of said sealing member~~ (a) is faced to said sealing member (b) through said single battery main body, characterized in that said sealing member (a) has a peripheral collar portion (a-i) which surrounds said concave portion of said sealing member (a) and said sealing member (b) has a peripheral collar portion (b-i) at a region thereof corresponding to said peripheral collar portion (a-i), wherein said peripheral collar portion (a-i) and said peripheral collar portion (b-i) are mutually welded, and ~~either~~ said sealing member (a) ~~or said sealing member (b)~~ is provided with a power output terminal having electrical continuity with said cathode, a power output terminal having electrical continuity with said anode, ~~of said single battery main body~~ and an insulating portion for insulating said power output terminal terminals.

39. (New) A rechargeable lithium battery which comprises a battery main body comprising at least a cathode, an anode, and an ion conductor, said battery main body being enclosed between a pair of a sealing member (a) and a sealing member (b), each of said sealing member (a) and said sealing member (b) having a concave portion such that said concave portion of said sealing member (a) is extended to either side of said sealing member (a) from a central position of said sealing member (a), and said concave portion of said sealing member (b) is extended to either side of said sealing member (b) from a central portion of said sealing member (b), and said sealing member (a) and said

sealing member (b) being arranged to oppose to each other such that the face of said concave portion of said sealing member (a) and the face of said concave portion of said sealing member (b) are opposed to each other through said battery main body, characterized in that said sealing member (a) has a peripheral collar portion (a-i) which surrounds said concave portion of said sealing member (a) and said sealing member (b) has a peripheral collar portion (b-i) which surrounds said concave portion of said sealing member (b) so as to correspond to said peripheral collar portion (a-i), wherein said peripheral collar portion (a-i) and said peripheral collar portion (b-i) are mutually welded, and either said sealing member (a) or said sealing member (b) is provided with a power output terminal having electrical continuity with said cathode, a power output terminal having electrical continuity with said anode, and an insulating portion for insulating said power output terminals.

40. (New) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 2, wherein said concave portion of said sealing member (a) is shaped to have a cross section in a substantially symmetrical trapezoidal form.

41. (New) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 40, wherein said symmetrical trapezoidal form has an inclination in a range of from 5° to 45°.